

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3442

S E C R E T JIDDA 0452

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SA, US

SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS REQUEST FOR CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
SURVEY

REF (A) 75 STATE 108696, (B) 75 JIDDA 8121, (C) 75 JIDDA  
8169, (D) JIDDA 0077

1. SINCE OUR LAST REQUEST FOR A RAPID REPLY TO MIN HOUSING  
AND PUBLIC WORKS PRINCE MIT'AB'S REQUEST THAT THE CORPS  
OF ENGINEERS UNDERTAKE A SURVEY OF HIS MINISTRY (REF D)  
PRINCE MIT'AB HAS SEVERAL TIMES BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THE  
EMBASSY LIAISON OFFICER IN RIYADH AND WITH THE HEADQUARTERS  
OF THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS THERE TO ASK WHETHER A REPLY HAS  
BEEN RECEIVED. WHEN INFORMED THAT NONE HAS, HE HAS  
ENQUIRED WHEN HE MAY EXPECT AN ANSWER. FROM WHAT HE HAS  
SAID IT IS APPARENT THAT HE IS AT LEAST AWARE OF THE SUBSTANCE  
OF OUR UNDERTAKING TO PRINCE FAHD (FROM THE PRESIDENT THROUGH  
THE SECRETARY) TO ASSIST THE KINGDOM IN THE HOUSING FIELD AS  
CONTAINED REF (A), THE RELEVANT PORTION OF WHICH IS AS FOLLOWS:

"MR. CLEMENTS HAS ALSO REPORTED YOUR GOVERNMENT'S  
INTEREST IN DEVELOPING LOW COST HOUSING IN JIDDA AND  
RIYADH WITH THE HELP OF THE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS.  
THE PRESIDENT ALSO HAS ASKED ME TO INFORM YOUR HIGHNESS  
THAT HE WILL BE PLEASED TO PARTICIPATE WITH YOUR  
GOVERNMENT IN THESE PROJECTS, UTILIZING THE SERVICES  
OF THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, AS AN EXTENSION OF THE LONG

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HISTORY OF COOPERATION OF THE CORPS WITH YOUR COUNTRY."

2. PRINCE MIT'AB HAS CLEARLY BEEN ANTICIPATING AN EARLY POSITIVE RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST AND THE ABSENCE OF ANY REPLY AT ALL HAS PROBABLY BECOME A SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT TO HIM IN HIS DEALINGS WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CABINET. IT HAS CERTAINLY BECOME A SOURCE OF CONSIDERABLE EMBARRASSMENT TO THE EMBASSY IN OUR DEALINGS WITH PRINCE MIT'AB.

3. THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS HERE HAS SENT TO CORPS HEAD-QUARTERS IN WASHINGTON A DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AS OF THE END OF THE YEAR THE MOU HAD BEEN GONE OVER AND APPROVED BY DOD LAWYERS AND WAS BEING TRANSMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR APPROVAL.

4. ACTION REQUESTED. AN IMMEDIATE AND POSITIVE RESPONSE TO PRINCE MIT'AB'S REQUEST. IF FOR SOME REASON AN IMMEDIATE FINAL ANSWER IS NOT POSSIBLE, WE REQUEST THAT WE BE GIVEN AN INTERIM RESPONSE FOR PRINCE MIT'AB TELLING HIM WHEN HE MAY EXPECT A DEFINITIVE RESPONSE AND THE REASON FOR DELAY IN CONSIDERATION OF HIS REQUEST.

PORTER

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